

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCI-03 CPR-01 SS-14 A-01 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-04 IO-03 SAM-01 NSC-07 SY-02 CIAE-00 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4508

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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PARIS FOR NASA REP MURPHY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, NL

SUBJECT: VISIT OF ASTRONAUTS TO NETHERLANDS, 25TH IAF CONGRESS

REF: (A) HAGUE 4706

(B) HAGUE 4688 AND PREVIOUS

SUMMARY: VISIT OF ASTRONAUTS TO NETHS TO PARTICIPATE IN 25TH IAF CONGRESS AND OTHER (EMBASSY-GENERATED) EVENTS HAS RESULTED IN EXTENSIVE MEDIA COVERAGE REFLECTING GREAT CREDIT ON US SPACE PROGRAM AND HIGHLIGHTING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. OF PRIME SIGNIFICANCE WAS EXPOSURE OF GENERAL STAFFORD TO WIDE SPECTRUM OF MEDIA, INCLUDING RADIO, TV, AND GENERAL AS WELL AS SCIENTIFIC PRESS, AND HIS PARTICIPATION IN NUMEROUS NON-IAF EVENTS SET UP BY EMBASSY, INCLUDING CALL ON PRIME MINISTER AND MEMBERS OF ROYAL FAMILY. THE VISIT CAN BE CHARACTERIZED ONLY AS RESOUNDING SUCCESS. END SUMMARY.

1. AT SPECIAL INVITATION OF 25TH INTERNATIONAL ASTRONAUTICAL

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FEDERATION (IAF) CONGRESS HOST ORGANIZATION- THE NETHERLANDS

AGENCY FOR AEROSPACE PROGRAMS (NIVR) - APOLLO-SOYUZ TEST PROJECT (ASTP) CO-COMMANDERS, BGEN THOMAS P. STAFFORD AND COL. ALEXEI LEONOV, ATTENDED OPENING CEREMONIES AND RELATED EVENTS AT 2TH IAF CONGRESS WHICH WAS HELD IN AMSTERDAM FROM 9/30 TO 10/4/74. ON 9/30 STAFFORD AND LEONOV PARTICIPATED JOINTLY IN ALL EVENTS LISTED IN OUR 4706, WHICH PROVIDED EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO HIGHLIGHT INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ASPECTS OF U.S. SPACE PROGRAM. (SOVIETS, OF COURSE, ALSO GAINED GOOD MEASURE OF PR MILEAGE). L STAFFORD SPENT MOST OF BALANCE OF WEEK (10/1-10/4) IN SERIES OF EVENTS GENERATED OR SPONSORED BY EMBASSY AS DESCRIBED BELOW.

2. MORNING OF OCT 1., STAFFORD AND AMBASSADOR PAID COURTESY CALL ON PM DEN UYL, TOGETHER WITH LEONOV AND SOV AMBASSADOR. STAFFORD PRESENTED PM WITH MOUNTED PRINT DEPICTING ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF ASTP LINK-UP AND BEARING SIGNATURES OF APOLLO AND SOYUZ CREWS. FOLLOWING CALL ON PM, STAFFORD PROCEEDED TO AVIODOME (AEROSPACE MUSEUM) AT SCHIPHOL AIRPORT WHERE, COINCIDENTLY, CAPSULE USED ON APOLLO X - MOON ORBITAL MISSION WHICH HE COMMANDED - IS ON DISPLAY, AND WHERE HE WAS JOINED BY LEONOV FOR TV NEWS INTERVIEW. INTERVIEW, WHICH WAS CONDUCTED WITH STAFFORD, LEONOV AND INTERVIEWER (VAN RHIJN, OF NCRV) SITTING IN APOLLO X CAPSULE, WAS AIR ED OVER DUTCH TV THAT EVENING. FOLLOWING NCRV INTERVIEW AND LUNCH FOR STAFFORD AND LEONOV HOSTED BY NCRV, STAFFORD, AMBASSADOR AND EMBOFFS VISITED DEEP SEA DRILL PROJECT (DSDP) DRILL SHIP "GLOMAR CHALLENGER", ANOTHER FINE EXAMPLE OF US SCITNTIFIC LEADERSHIP AND INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, WHICH HAPPENED TO BE IN AMSTERDAM FOR REFITTING PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FOR ANTARTIC EXPLORATION. A SOVIET CONTINGENT, WHICH INCLUDED COSMONAUTS LEONOV AND SEVASTIANOV, AS WELL AS AMB. ROMANOV, SOV EMBOFFS AND SOV DELEGATES TO IAF, VISITED THE CHALLENGER TOGETHER WITH US GROUP (FYI: USSR NOW PRICIPATES IN FINANCING OF DSDP AND SEVERAL OF ITS SCIENTISTS HAVE BEEN ON DSDP EXPEDITIONS, INCLUDING MOST RECENT ONE. DSDP OFFICE AT SCRIPPS INSTITUTION, CALIFORNIA, HAD ISSUED SPECIAL INVITATION TO AMB. ROMANOV TO VISIT "CHALLENGER" WHILE IN AMSTERDAM). STAFFORD CAPPED OFF HECTIC DAY BY ATTENDING AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION AT NETHS-AMERICA INSTITUTE IN HONOR OF US DELEGATION TO IAF. RECEPTION WAS ATTENDED BY WELL OVER 200 GUESTS, INCLUDING MOST US DELEGATES, KEY OFFICIALS FROM NETHS SCIENTIFIC AND GOVERNMENT UNCLASSIFIED

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COMMUNITY, OFFICIALS OF IAF AND RELATED BODIES, AS WELL AS PRINCIPAL DELGATES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES AND INCLUDING LEONOV, SEVASTIANOV, SOV. AMBASSADOR. PRESENCE OF PRESS RESULTED IN ADDITIONAL PIX OF ASTP CO-COMMANDERS WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY APPEARED IN DUTCH DAILIES.

3. AT REQUEST OF NIVR DIRECTOR WOLFF, STAFFORD MET WITH DUTCH ENGINEERING STUDENTS AT IAF CONGRESS OCT. 3. WITH SCHWEICKART,

HE LATER ATTENDED DINNER IN HONOR OF COSMONAUTS AT RESIDENCE OF SOV AMBASSADOR ROMANOV.

4. REMAINDER OF STAFFORD'S PROGRAM, OCT 3 AND 4, PROCEEDED AS PER SCHEDULE REPORTED HAGUE 4688, WITH STAFFORD ALSO ATTENDING, AT GEN. WOLFF'S INVITATION, IAF CONGRESS HOSTS' FAREWELL DINNER FOR DELEGATES OCT 4. CALL ON PRINCESS BEATRIX AND PRINCE CLAUS OCT 3, TO HAVE LASTED NOT MORE THAN ONE HOUR, RAN TO 90 MINUTES AT BEHEST OF ROYAL COUPLE TO WHOM ASTRONAUTS PRESENTED SPECIALLY-DEDICATED PIECE FROM SKYLAB WINDOW. ENTHUSIASTIC GROUP OF 500 DUTCH AND AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WERE TREATED OCT 3 TO SHOWING OF NASA FILM "SKYLAB-AN OUTPOST IN SPACE" AND TALK BY STAFFORD, WHOM THEY PEPPERED WITH QUESTIONS.

5. VISIT OF ASTRONAUTS CANNOT BE CHARACTERIZED AS ANYTHING LESS THAN RESOUNDING SUCCESS. LION'S SHARE OF CREDIT MUST GO TO STAFFORD, WHO PLACED HIMSELF COMPLETELY AT DISPOSAL OF EMBASSY AND WHOSE GOOD HUMOR, UNFLAGGING ENERGY AND GENUINE ENTHUSIASM MADE HIM NOT ONLY STELLAR ATTRACTION OF IAF CONGRES' HOSTS, BUT A BRILLIANT US AMBASSADOR OF GOODWILL AS WELL. HIS EXPOSURE TO LARGE SECTORS OF THE DUTCH PUBLIC THROUGH THE MEDIA WILL HAVE A LONG-LASTING EFFECT ON THE US IMAGE. THE EMBASSY IS GRATEFUL TO NASA FOR ITS SUPPORT AND COOPERATION AND IS INDEBTED TO GENERAL STAFFORD FOR HAVING GIVEN SO GENEROUSLY OF HIS TIME AND PRESENCE AND WITH SUCH FRUITFUL RESULTS.
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